Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1609

UNCLAS ASUNCION 4727

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SNAR, PA

SUBJ: EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 275328

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA. #3 REFTEL:

A. EVERETT E. BRIGGS, DCM, CHAIRMAN WILLIAM MATTHEWS, SAIC, DEA ANDREW R. KAY, POLITICAL OFFICER FRANK ESQUIVEL, POLITICAL OFFICER WILLIAM FINNEGAN, CONSUL PAUL MONTAVON, ASSISTANT AID DIRECTOR COL. CHARLES WALLIS, DATT THOMAS CHAROUHAS, PAO

B.FULL COMMITTEE MEETS AS NEEDED -- USUALLY TWICE YEARLY.
LAST MEETING MAY 23, 1977. WORKING GROUP CONSISTING OF
DCM, SAIC, TWO POLITICAL OFFICERS, AND SOMETIMES PAO MEETS
ABOUT EVERY THREE MONTHS. LAST TIME OCTOBER 7, 1977.
DURING TENURE OF FORMAER AMBASSADOR WEEKLY (SOMETIMES DAILY)
MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH DCM AND SAIC.

C. FULL NARCOTICS COMMITTEE MEETS SO THAT MEMBERS CAN BE BROUGHT UP-TO-DATE ON CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN PARAGUAY. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE PROGRAM UNCLASSIFIED

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HERE, AID'S ROLE IS NOW ENTIRELY PASSIVE WHILE USIS PROVIDES VERY VALUABLE SUPPORT ON AN AD HOC BASIS TO LOCAL INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS, SPECIAL VISITOR TRAVEL TO THE U.S., ETC. POLICY AS SUCH IS SET BY THE AMBASSADOR ASSISTED BY THE DCM AND CARRIED OUT BY DEA. IN ADDITION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF A NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE PER SE IS THAT THE STAFF AS A WHOLE AND ESPECIALLY THE COUNTRY

TEAM BE KEPT FULLY AWARE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE OF WHAT OUR AIMS IN THE COUNTRY ARE. THIS IS ACHIEVED NOT SO MUCH THROUGH THE PERIODIC MEETINGS OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE AS THROUGH DISCUSSIONS AT THE WEEKLY COUNTRY TEAM MEETING WHERE NARCOTICS IS A FREQUENT SUBJECT FOR REVIEW.

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